## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

## Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method of printing a document in an information technology network comprising at least one computer and at least one printer, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

dispatching first source data having a first assigned printing priority value to at least one printer for performance of at least one print process;

subsequent to dispatch of the first source data and prior to completion of the at least one print process, dispatching second source data having a second assigned printing priority value to the at least one printer for performance of at least one print process;

determining whether the second priority value signifies ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value;

if the second priority value signifies a ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value, interrupting the at least one print process on the first source data, and performing one of:

(i) storing any processed first source data on long-term storage within the network; or

(ii) deleting any processed first source data from any ephemeral storage of the at least one printer to which first source data was dispatched without storing such processed first source data on long term storage within the network;

and;

returning a message to a print manager identifying whether (i) or (ii) has been performed.

2. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 further comprising ~~the step~~, prior to ~~the step of~~ either storing or deleting any processed first source data, ~~of~~ determining how much long-term storage space is available in the network.

3. (currently amended): A method according to claim 2 further comprising ~~the step of~~ determining whether the available long term storage space is sufficient to enable storage of any processed first source data and subsequent performance of the at least one print process on the second source data.

4. (original): A method according to claim 3 wherein any processed first source data is stored on long-term storage of at least one printer of the network in the event that the available storage space is sufficient, and any processed first source data is deleted from any ephemeral storage of the at least one printer to which first source data was dispatched without storing such processed data on long term storage in the event that the available storage space is not sufficient.

5. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the step of~~ determining whether the second priority value signifies ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value is determined in advance of dispatching the second source data to the at least one printer.

6. (currently amended): A method according to claim 5 further comprising ~~the step~~, in the event that the second priority value signifies a ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value, ~~of~~ dispatching to the at least one printer a command instructing the at least one printer to interrupt the at least one print process on first source data, and either to save any processed first source data, or to delete such processed first source data.

7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the step of~~ determining whether the second priority value signifies ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority vlaue is determined at the at least one printer subsequent to receipt of the second source data.

8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 7 further comprising ~~the step~~, performed within the at least one printer in the event that the second priority value signifies ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value, ~~of~~ automatically executing a command instructing the at least one printer to interrupt the at least one print process on

first source data, and either to save any processed first source data, or to delete such processed first source data.

9. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein any processed first source data is stored on long term storage provided by a plurality of printers within the network.

10. (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein first and second source data is distributed between a plurality of printers for performance of the at least one print process, and the at least one print process includes ripping of first and second source data.

11. (original): A method according to claim 10 wherein the first and second source data are each dispatched initially to a single printer, and are subsequently distributed between a plurality of printers.

12. (original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the first and second source data is distributed between first and second pluralities of printers respectively for performance of the at least one print process, and wherein the first and second pluralities of printers have at least one printer in common.

13. (currently amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein the second priority value signifies ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value, and the method further comprises ~~the steps~~, prior to dispatch of the second source data, of estimating which printers involved in performing the at least one print process on the first source data will have long term storage available after storage of any processed first source data upon interruption of the at least one print process on the first source data, and dispatching at least part of the second source data to at least one printer thus identified.

14. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1 wherein the print process may be a computational print process, or a print process in which data is passed through mechanical elements necessary for performing printing operations of a printer to place indicia on a medium and thereby produce a document.

15. (currently amended): A printer comprising:

a print operations function including a print engine and feed and finishing capability, a processor, at least one data storage medium, and at least one network port to enable connection of the printer to elements of an information technology network, wherein the processor is adapted, upon receipt of an appropriate signal, to suspend a print process taking place within the printer and to perform one of the following operations:

(i) save any data output by the print process upon suspension thereof on long term storage;

(ii) delete from ephemeral storage any such output data without saving such output data on long term storage;

wherein the processor is adapted to run a program that: determines a priority value assigned to incoming data entering the printer via the at least one network port for a first type of print processing; determines whether the priority value assigned to the incoming data is higher than a priority value assigned to current data undergoing the first type of print processing; and automatically executes a suspension function in the event that the incoming data has a higher priority value than the current data.

16. (canceled)

17. (original): A printer according to claim 15 wherein the processor is adapted to execute the suspension function upon receipt of a corresponding command via the network port.

18. (original): A printer according to claim 15 wherein the long-term storage is within the network.

19. (previously presented): A printer according to claim 15 wherein the long-term storage is the at least one data storage medium.

20. (currently amended): A method of printing a document over a computer network comprising at least one computer and at least one printer, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

dispatching first source data having a first assigned printing priority value to at least one printer for performance of at least one print process;

subsequent to dispatch of the first source data and prior to completion of the at least one print process, dispatching second source data having a second assigned printing priority value to the at least one printer for performance of at least one print process;

determining whether the second priority value signifies ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value;

if the second priority value signifies a ~~is~~ higher priority than the first priority value, interrupting the at least one print process on the first source data, and performing one of:

(i) storing any processed first source data on long-term storage;

(ii) deleting any processed first source data from any ephemeral storage of the at least one printer to which first source data was dispatched without storing such processed first source data on long term storage; and

returning a message to a print manager.